

## Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8177  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, CI, XM

SUBJECT: CHILEAN SOCIALIST LEADER MEETS WITH ICFTU LEADERS

1. SUMMARY. ON JANUARY 17, CARLOS ALTAMIRANO, THE  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CHILEAN SOCIALIST PARTY, MET WITH  
OTTO KERSTEN AND OTHER ICFTU OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS ICFTU  
SUPPORT FOR THE CHILEAN LABOR MOVEMENT IN EXILE (CUT).  
THE ICFTU AGREED TO SEEK TO INCREASE FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
FOR BOTH EXTERNAL AND CLANDESTINE INTERNAL ACTIVITIES OF  
CUT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT CHILE WILL BE MADE A PRIMARY  
ISSUE AT THE ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY NEXT OCTOBER.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 17 CHILEAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER CARLOS  
ALTAMIRANO CALLED ON ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN TO  
EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE TO THE  
ICFTU AND ITS AFFILIATED UNIONS FOR AID EXTENDED  
SINCE THE OVERTHROW OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. HE  
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ALSO MADE AN APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL ICFTU FINANCIAL

ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO AN ICFTU PRESS RELEASE, KERSTEN TOLD ALTAMIRANO THAT THE ICFTU WOULD CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR CUT. KERSTEN INFORMED THE CHILEAN LEADER THAT THE ICFTU'S COMMITTEE ON CHILE, WHICH MET ON JANUARY 16, HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO SEEK AN INCREASE IN ICFTU AID TO CUT AND TO THE FAMILIES OF CHILEAN WORKERS KILLED OR IMPRISONED DURING AND SINCE THE MILITARY COUP. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO ASKED CUT LEADERS TO DRAW UP AN AID PROGRAM PROPOSAL TO HELP IN THE DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES.

3. THE ICFTU PRESS STATEMENT ALSO REFERRED TO THE ICFTU CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. IT STATED THAT THE CONGRESS "WILL BRING THE POLITICAL SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT FOR THE WORKERS OF CHILE AND ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLES WHO HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF DEMOCRACY, RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF LATIN AMERICA."

4. ON JANUARY 22, KERSTEN TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE MEETING WITH ALTAMIRANO WAS "MOST CONSTRUCTIVE." WHEN ASKED IF CUT LEADER LUIS FIGUEROA HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING, KERSTEN REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT AND THEN ADDED, "WE PREFER TO DEAL WITH SOCIALISTS." HE SAID THAT ALTAMIRANO WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY LUIS MENEZES WHO HEADS A CUT LIAISON OFFICE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BELGIAN FGTB. KERSTEN SAID THAT MENEZES, WHO IS FUNDED BY THE ICFTU, IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CIRCLES AND IN HIS OPINION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE CUT LEADER IN EUROPE.

5. FOR SANTIAGO: THE MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MENEZES.

6. COMMENT: IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE ICFTU INTENDS TO CARRY ITS CRUSADE AGAINST THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE INTO ITS CONGRESS AT MEXICO CITY NEXT OCTOBER. THERE ARE ALSO SIGNS THAT THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY BE CONTEMPLATING MAJOR OPERATIONS  
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TIONAL AND PERHAPS STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORIT) AT THE CONGRESS. THE ADDITIONAL FACT THAT THE ICFTU PLANS TO SEND THREE OR FOUR HIGH LEVEL STUDY MISSIONS TO KEY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BEGINNING IN MARCH IS INDICATIVE OF MARKEDLY HEIGHTENED ICFTU INTEREST IN THE AREA, AND LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT CHANGES WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY AFFECT U.S. INTERESTS IN THE LABOR

FIELD IN LATIN AMERICA MAY BE IN THE WIND. GREENWALD

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